

The Metropolitan Washington Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation held its second annual Arts for Arthritis Gala on November 8, 2003 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. Chaired by former Senator Max Cleland and Ms. Nancy Ross, the gala was a wonderful success! More than 350 guests enjoyed a magnificent dinner and danced the night away to music from "The Platters". The live auction, with Rene Knott as host, kept the guests laughing and bidding throughout the evening. With the support of our attendees and an extremely successful silent and live auction, we were able to raise over \$202,000, which will help us in the fight for those affected by arthritis and related conditions.

Richard Marriott presented the Marriott Lifetime Achievement Award to TIME magazine authors Alice Park and Christine Gorman, whose December 9, 2002 TIME cover story, "The Age of Arthritis," accelerated the eye-opening process in regard to arthritis in this country. Paving the way for a better public understanding of the disease, serving as a call to action for improved diagnosis and treatment of those afflicted, and focusing attention on the need to invest in research aimed at the prevention and ultimate cure for arthritis, TIME's coverage truly helped to fuel a national dialogue about this disease in a manner rarely achieved. It was with great pleasure, therefore, that the chapter chose to honor Ms. Park and Ms. Gorman for their outstanding contribution to the Foundation's mission.



Dr. Jack Klippel, national CEO of the Arthritis Foundation, presented the NIAMS (National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases) Community Health Center in Washington, DC with the Metropolitan Washington Chapter's Breakthroughs in Arthritis Award for 2003 for their work to advance the fight against arthritis. The award was presented to Dr. Peter Lipsky, Scientific Director of NIAMS. The NIAMS was honored for its vital services to key underserved populations in the metropolitan Washington region, as well as for providing researchers with the opportunity to strengthen the understanding of health disparities in rheumatic diseases.

The presentation of these awards, as well as speeches from our chapter President and Foundation members, contributed to make an already exceptional evening even more extraordinary. We appreciate the help and support of our members and volunteers in the planning of this beautiful event, and we hope to see many of the same faces at next year's gala!



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TYSONS CORNER CHARITY
Continued from page 1

of Saturday, May 1st in Tysons Corner Center, and will be followed by a day full of festivities to celebrate!

Aside from the numerous special events planned to take place throughout the year, the Foundation is also working on other ways to reach out to the community. The Foundation plans to staff a table offering shoppers educational materials and the opportunity to ask questions about arthritis, the Foundation, and its programs. Throughout the year, the Foundation also plans to provide lectures by health care professionals on different arthritis-related topics.

Tysons Corner has given the chapter a tremendous gift. They have given us the opportunity to raise awareness about arthritis within the general public, a means to help those with arthritis, and a monetary donation to financially support our vision. The new community partnership between Tysons Corner Center and the Metropolitan Washington Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation will surely result in a terrific year!